

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

FEA-01 INT-05 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 H-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 IO-10

OMB-01 /094 W

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R 111344Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2354

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0103

USIA FOR INA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW

REF: DAMASCUS 0071 (NOTAL)

1. DAMASCUS GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS CONTINUED
COVERAGE OF WORLD REACTIONS TO SECRETARY'S BUSINESS WEEK
INTERVIEW. RECENT ARTICLES DRAW ON WORLD NEWS REPORTS AND QUOTE
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NUMEROUS ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS AS OPPOSING U.S.

THREAT TO USE FORCE TO SEIZE OIL FIELDS. ARTICLE JANUARY 8, REPORTED AMBASSADOR ANDERSON'S RESPONSE THAT "SECRETARY MEANT EXACTLY WHAT HE SAID." PRAVDA QUOTED AS WARNING ARABS TO BE ON ALERT. PRESS JANUARY 9 REPORTED, IN CONTEXT OF SECRETARY'S REMARKS, MOVEMENT OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER ENTERPRISE INTO INDIAN OCEAN. ARTICLE ALSO NOTED MENA FROM WASHINGTON THAT U.S. HAS SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS EMBASSIES IN ARAB COUNTRIES WITH "MODIFICATIONS" ON SECRETARY'S STATEMENT. ON JANUARY 11, PRESS REPORTED STATEMENT BY SENATOR SPARKMAN THAT SECRETARY "WRONG...TO HINT ABOUT WAR."

2. SYRIAN TV AND RADIO, WHICH HAVE MUCH WIDER AUDIENCE, HAVE CARRIED SIMILAR NEWS REPORTS. IN ADDITION, SYRIAN TV GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE ON JANUARY 8, TO REMARKS BY ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY-GENERAL MAHMOUD RIAD ON SUBJECT. SYRIAN RADIO QUOTED SENATOR MANSFIELD'S REMARKS AGAINST ANY MILITARY ACTION BY U.S. FORCES AGAINST OIL FIELDS. MURPHY

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